

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 9, 11, and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In the final office action, the Examiner recognizes that Hubis et al. does not disclose a connected state value concerning the connection of the computer in relation to each logical volume included in the disk device or each logical area in each logical volume included in the disk device, the connected state value being a numerical value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer. The Examiner cites McIlroy et al. for providing the missing teaching.

The Examiner states that McIlroy discloses a connected state value ranging between a maximum value (symbol "yes") and a minimum value (symbol "no"), and an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditional connected state (when a process label has a higher privilege than a storage label the communication may proceed, otherwise it will not, section 1, paragraph 2, lines 2-3) of the computer.

Applicants note that "yes" and "no" are states or indicators of the labels (see section 2.6, first paragraph); they are not numerical values representing the maximum value and the minimum value of a connected state value. In addition, McIlroy et al. at section 1, paragraph 2, lines 2-3 states: "Data transfers may only happen in a direction increasing labels. Labels of processes or files may adjust automatically . . ." McIlroy et al. at the cited passage does not disclose the asserted privilege feature.

According to section 2.6 of McIlroy et al., labels comprise lattice values, privilege bits, two bits for fixity, and an indicator for yes or no. The lattice values are different from the privilege bits, which are different from the indicator for yes or no. The Examiner appears to have mixed them up to fit the claimed invention, by referring to the yes or no indicator as the maximum value and the minimum value, and referring to the privilege feature as the intermediate value. They simply do not fit the claimed feature of a connected state value which is a numerical value ranging between a maximum value (fully connected)

and a minimum value (fully disconnected) with an intermediate value representing a conditionally connected state.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 15

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubis et al. (US 6,343,324) in view of McIlroy et al. ("Multilevel Security in the UNIX Tradition").

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 9, 11, and 15 are patentable over Hubis et al. and McIlroy et al. because, for instance, they does not teach or suggest specifying a connected state value concerning the connection of the computer in relation to each logical volume included in the disk device or each logical area in each logical volume included in the disk device, the connected state value being a numerical value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer.

As discussed above, neither Hubis et al. nor McIlroy et al. discloses or suggests a connected state value being a numerical value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 2, 9, 11, and 15, and dependent claims 3, 4, 6, and 10, are novel and patentable over Hubis et al.

Claims 5, 7, and 12

Claims 5, 7, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubis et al. in view of McIlroy et al. and King et al. ("Operating System Support for Virtual Machines").

Even assuming that King et al. discloses the additional features recited in dependent claims 5, 7, and 12, those claims are still patentable at least due to their dependency from allowable claims 1 and 9, since King et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Hubis et al. and McIlroy et al. King et al. also fails to teach or suggest specifying a connected state value concerning the connection of the computer in relation to each logical volume included in the disk device or each logical area in each logical volume included in the disk device, the connected state value being a numerical value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully

connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 5, 7, and 12 are patentable over Hubis et al., McIlroy et al., and King et al.

Claim 13

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubis et al. in view of McIlroy et al. and Tang et al. ("Load Distribution via Static Scheduling and Client Redirection for Replicated Web Servers").

Even assuming that Tang et al. discloses the additional features recited in dependent claim 13, claim 13 is still patentable at least due to its dependency from allowable claim 11, since Tang et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Hubis et al. and McIlroy et al. Tang et al. also fails to teach or suggest defining the relationship of logical connection includes specifying a connected state value concerning the connection of the computer in relation to each logical volume included in the disk device or each logical area in each logical volume included in the disk device, the connected state value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 13 is patentable over Hubis et al., McIlroy et al., and Tang et al.

Claim 8

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubis et al. in view of McIlroy et al., King et al., and Tang et al.

Even assuming that King et al. and Tang et al. disclose the additional features recited in dependent claim 8, claim 8 is still patentable at least due to its dependency from allowable claim 1, since King et al. and Tang et al. do not cure the deficiencies of Hubis et al. and McIlroy et al. King et al. and Tang et al. also fail to teach or suggest specifying a connected state value concerning the connection of the computer in relation to each logical volume included in the disk device or each logical area in each logical volume included in the disk device, the connected state value being a numerical value ranging between a minimum

value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 8 is patentable over Hubis et al., King et al., and Tang et al.

Claim 14

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubis et al. in view of McIlroy et al. and Reynolds et al. ("The Design and Implementation of an Intrusion Tolerant System").

Even assuming that Reynolds et al. discloses the additional features recited in dependent claim 14, claim 14 is still patentable at least due to its dependency from allowable claim 9, since Reynolds et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Hubis et al. and McIlroy et al. Reynolds et al. also fails to teach or suggest defining the relationship of logical connection includes specifying a connected state value concerning the connection of the computer in relation to each logical volume included in the disk device or each logical area in each logical volume included in the disk device, the connected state value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 14 is patentable over Hubis et al., McIlroy et al., and Reynolds et al.

Claims 16-20

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubis et al. in view of McIlroy et al. and Mullen ("Restrict Anonymous: Enumeration and the Null User").

Even assuming that Mullen discloses the additional features recited in dependent claims 16-20, claims 16-20 are still patentable at least due to their dependency from allowable claims 1, 2, 9, 11, and 15, respectively, since Mullen does not cure the deficiencies of Hubis et al. and McIlroy et al. Mullen also fails to teach or suggest defining the relationship of logical connection includes specifying a connected state value concerning

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the connection of the computer in relation to each logical volume included in the disk device or each logical area in each logical volume included in the disk device, the connected state value ranging between a minimum value and a maximum value, the maximum value signifying that the computer is fully connected, the minimum value signifying that the computer is fully disconnected, an intermediate value between the maximum value and the minimum value signifying a conditionally connected state for the computer.

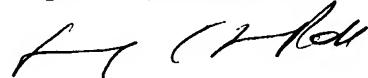
For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 16-20 are patentable over Hubis et al., McIlroy et al., and Mullen.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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